(ii) Non-availability of infrastructural facilities right upto the grass root level including training areas, standard sports equipment etc.;

(iii) Inadequate monetary resources; and

(iv) Lack of integration of Physical Education and sports with educational curriculum.

(c) The measures proposed to be taken for broadbasing of sports activities to bring a sense of national pride include : effective integration of sports and games with the educational curriculum; particular emphasis on promotion of sporting activities in rural areas and on creation of sports infrastructure throughout the country; and a set of various incentives and awards to sports-persons who win medals at the International level.

[Translation]

Visit by Cyprus President

*218. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of Cyprus had visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of talks held between him and Indian leaders regarding trade and economic matters; and

(c) the extent to which relations are likely to be strengthened between India and Cyprus as a result of this visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes Sir, The President of Cyprus, Mr. Glafcos Clerides visited India from 10-15 February, 1997.

(b) The talks between President Clerides and Indian leaders were wide-ranging, encompassing different aspects of Indo-Cypriot relations as well as cooperation between the two countries in the multilateral arena. The talks covered, inter alia, a number of political issues, including those of special interest to either side. It also afforded an opportunity to our two countries to build on the traditionally close political ties between us by deepening our economic relations. Recognising the opportunities ahead for increasing Indo-Cypriot trade and economic co-operation, President Clerides brought with him a business delegation from Cyprus. Discussions were held on ways that Indian companies could expand business relations with Cyprus in the context of the latter's impending admission into the European Union. During the visit an agreement was signed between the Cypriot Foreign Minister and our Minister of Surface Transport on Maritime cooperation.

(c) The visit of the Cypriot President has strengthened bilateral ties between India and Cyprus by re-enforcing a traditionally close relationship. The two sides reiterated their traditional support to each other on bilateral and multilateral issues of particular importance to either country, including the question of permanent membership of the UN Security Council. The visit of President Clerides also provided an opportunity to reaffirm our shared commitment to NAM. In this context the Cypriot Foreign Minister confirmed that he would attend the NAM Ministerial Conference in New Delhi next month. The visit also paved the way for a closer economic partnership which will be particularly useful as Cyprus moves towards joining the European Union. Our furure ties should be considerably enhanced by the role Cyprus can play as a gateway for expanding India's economic relations with Europe.

[English]

Tolls on National Highways/Bypasses and Bridges

*219. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to levy tolls on national highways, bypasses and bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to accrue to the Government annually on account of this toll tax; and

(d) the justification and reasons for levying such a toll tax by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to levy toll on improved 4 lane sections of National Highways, bypasses and bridges.

(c) As the toll will be fixed considering the cost of facility, savings to the user and the period of concession, it will vary from case to case. It is, therefore, not possible to give the accrual annually.

(d) As improvements to the National Highways would result in substantial savings to the road user, a part of such savings will be collected as toll.

Financial Assistance to Private Hospitals

*220. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to certain private hospitals; and

(b) if so, the criteria being followed for providing financial assistance in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The Government provides financial assistance under defferent Schemes to voluntary organisations running hospitals.

The details of the schemes and the criteria being followed in general, for giving grant-in-aid to the voluntary organisations is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Criteria	Amount of Grant-in-aid ADMISSIBLE
1	2	3	4
1.	IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES	(a) It must be registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or any other statute. (b) It should not be run for profit to any individual or group of individuals. (c) It should be non-official and under non-proprietary management. (d) It must offer services to the general public without any distinction of religion, caste creed or colour. (e) It should have personnel, resources, experiences and managerial ability to carry out the purpose for which the grant of financial assistance has been asked for. (f) Its work and financial position should be reported as satisfactory and payment of grant-in-aid should be recommended by the State Government. (g) It should normally be engaged in the treatment of tuberculosis, leprosy, Cancer, eye and other diseases. (h) It should agree to reserve a minimum of one fifth of the beds as free beds as per the definition of free bed\free medical care given as a part of the application form. (i) It must be of sound financial standing and agree to meet its share of non-recurring expenditure, wherever applicable. (j) It should have furnished to the Government of India utilisation documents in respect of the earlier grants after they have become due.	Rs. 4.00 lakhs

1	2	3	4
		(k) Assistance shall ordinarily be given to an institution once in three years.	
2.	NATIONAL LEPROSY-SURVEY, EDUCATION & TRAINING SCHEME	(i) The grantee institution should be a society, registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.	Recurring-Rs. 4.47 lakhs Non-Recurring-Rs. 1.91 lakhs
		(ii) The application for release of grant is required to be forwarded by the concerned State Government with their recommendation.	
3.	NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMME	(I) *Procurement of Cobalt 60 :*	Rs. 1.00 crore
		(a) Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1.00 crore is provided to the State Government\Institutions (Government/Charitable) subject to the condition that the institution possess the required staff i.e. Radio therapist (1), GDO (1), Registrar (1), House Surgeons (2), Physicist (1), Physics Technician (1), Mould Room Technician (1), Senior Radiotherapist (1).	
		(b) The lay out plan is approve by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay.	
		(c) The institution has to bear the replacement cost of the cobalt source after its normal span of life.	
		(d) The request of the institution\hospital is required to be routed through the concerned State Government and is finally approved by the Standing Committee on Radiotherapy Development Programme headed by Director General of Health Services.	
		(II) Financial assistance is given to Registered and bonafide charitable hospitals\NGOs for early detection of cancer cases and awareness activities. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is given to each such NGO which is in existence for more than three years and is actively involved in the early detection and awareness activities. The request of such NGO is also required to be forwarded through the concerned State Government.	Rs. 5.00 lakhs

1	2	3	4
4.	MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CARE PROJECT	Regional Institute of Maternal and Child Health was established at Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad with the following objectives :- (i) Conduct studies and surveys on health status of mothers and children. (ii) Identify the major causes of morbidity and mortality among the same group. (iii) Monitor MCH programme in the region and provide feed back to State and Central Government. (iv) Conduct operational research for problem solving and suggest suitable measures subject to local modification\adoption. (v) Act as a documentation centre for all health problems related to women and children. (vi) Provide continuous monitoring and evaluation of health measures adopted. (vii) Improve skill and knowledge of health workers for reduction of morbidity and mortality through a system of training and retraining. (viii) Provide level I and II care to mothers and develop a suitable referral system in atleast three PHCs. (ix) Develop low cost models for delivery of MCH care in rural areas and urban slums. (x) Develop suitable curriculae and manuals for training of medical and para-medical personnel; and (xi) Provide health and nutritional education to the community.	Non-Recurring-Rs. 29.00 lakhs Recurring-Rs. 7.00 lakhs per annum for three years.
5.	SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF SMALL FAMILY AND POPULATION CONTROL-SIX-BEDDED SCHEME	The Six Bedded Scheme is applicable in such rural areas of the country where Operation Theatre facilities are distant and not easily accessible and in slum areas in the city. The NGO is required to contribute 10% cost of the project. Preference is given to areas where couple protection rate is less than 35%. Under this scheme the Organisation is, interalia, supposed to conduct vasectomy and tubectomy sterilisations, MTP and IUD Insertions.	Non-Recurring-Rs. 4.50 lakhs Recurring : For Urban Areas-Rs. 1.20 lakhs For Rural Areas-Rs. 0.60 lakhs